India share is Rs. 1272.90 lakh and Rs. 850.45 lakh have been released. So far, no project has been completed. All projects will be, as reported by Government of Orissa, completed by 28.2.2003.

Joint Indo-Russian probe into failure of R. 25 engines of MiG-21

*25. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russian experts have joined the probe into the failure of the R.25 engines of the MiG-21 alongwith technical experts from the Indian Air Force and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited;

(b) if so, whether a senior Russian official has indicated that the sub-standard spare parts was one of the reasons for the high number of MiG-21 crashes in India in recent years;

(c) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted by both Indian and Russian Governments about the defective parts supplied to India; and

(d) if so, what is the outcome of these inquiries?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) At the instance of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL), three Russian experts have arrived and are on visit to three HAL Divisions and two Air Force Stations to look into the matter regarding failure of R. 25 engines. The experts will be with HAL for one month and subsequently submit their findings and recommendations.

DG, Rosoboronexport, Russia, during his press interview given to Indian journalists on 23.8.2002, *inter alia*, mentioned that one of the possible reasons for MiG-21 crashes in India was low quality spares being procured from other CIS countries. The matter was taken up by the Indian side during the fourth meeting of Indo-Russian Sub group on Aviation (IRSA) held in August, 2002 and it was pointed out that the statement made by the DG, Rosoboronexport was not factual. The Russian side was also requested to take suitable measures to counter this press misinformation and to avoid such occurrences in future.

The spares for MiG-21 are supplied by HAL after stringent quality control tests. Hence question of supply of defective spares does not arise.

Employment for educated unemployed youths in Assam

*26. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased state:

(a) the details of steps taken by Government to provide and create employment opportunities for educated unemployed youths in the rural areas of Assam during the last three years;

(b) the details of financial allocation made for the purpose during this period;

(c) the achievements of Government in this regard; and

(d) the financial allocation proposed to be made by Government for this purpose during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) to (d) The major programmes implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development in the country, for creation for self/wage employment opportunities for the rural poor including the educated unemployed are the Swaranjayati Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and the Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY). The basic objective of the SGSY is to bring the assisted families (Swarozgaris) above the poverty line by providing income-generating assets through a mix of Bank Credit and Government subsidy. The families below the poverty line in rural areas constitute the target group of the SGSY.

2. The EAS and the JGSY are wage employment programmes which have since been merged into a new scheme namely the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), *w.e.f.* 25.09.2001. During the financial year 2001-02, the JGSY and the EAS continued as part of SGRY and these schemes stood fully integrated from 1st April, 2002.

3. The Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) and the Integrated Watershed Development Programme (IWDP) also create employment indirectly in the rural areas. However, figures of employment created through these schemes are not monitored separately.